Goods stolen by the loading staff

271. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Air India and the Airport Authority of India that while transhipping the luggage of the passengers, luggages are opened and goods stolen by the loading staff; and

(b) what steps the Air India and Airport Authority of India is taking to avoid such practice?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. A few reports of pilferage of luggage have been reported.

(b) Safe custody of checked-in baggage is the responsibility of the carrier. Checked-in baggages mostly travel in security sealed containers of Air-India, there by reducing the risk of pilferage. Complaints of pilferage/loss of baggage are attended to promptly and suitable disciplinary action is taken, wherever possible.

Effect of mass leave by pilots

272. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian Airlines flights cancelled after the pilots had recently went on mass leave;

(b) what was the extent of loss suffered by Indian Airlines during their period of absence;

(c) whether the flight operations have since become normal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) 83 flights were cancelled during the period from 23.1.97 to 27.1.1997 when pilots were on mass sick leave.

(b) The estimated loss suffered by Indian Airlins on this account is approximately Rs. 3 crores.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines is operating all its services as per its published schedule.

Averting collision between an IA and AI Aircrafts

273. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the first week of January, 1997 a mid-air collision between an Indian Airlines aircraft and Air India aircraft was averted;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any enquiry and what are the causes; and

(c) what positive measures have been taken by Government to avoid such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) (a) On 4.1.97 the Commander of Indian Airlines flight IC - 168 reported airmiss with an Air India flight AI -308.

(b) The investigation into the incident conducted by Directorate General of Civil Aviation has revealed that the Air India aircraft had overtaken the Indian Airlines aircraft at 60 NM (Nautical Miles) before Delhi maintaining a vertical seperation of about 3000 ft and as such there was no risk of collision between the two aircraft.

(c) DGCA has advised Airports Authority of India to take following measures:—

(i) Air Traffic Controllers should strictly follow the laid down ATC procedures and instructions.

(ii) Standard phraseology should be used while giving instructions to aircraft.

(iii) Proficiency monitoring of ATCOs in association with DGCA officers should be carried out frequently.

(iv) The modernisation of Air Traffic Services of Bomaby and Delhi airports should be made operational expeditiously.

(v) Proper maintenance of navigational communication and landing facilities should be ensured.